

(e) *Status documents in appeal file.* Documents contained in the appeal file are, without further action by the parties, a part of the record upon which the Board renders its decision, unless a party objects to the consideration of a particular document at or before the hearing or, if there is no hearing on the appeal, before closing the record. If objection to a document is made, the Board rules upon its admissibility into the record as evidence in accordance with Rules 17 and 23.

6302.5 Service of documents (Rule 5).

A copy of every written communication submitted to the Board shall be sent to every party to the dispute. Such communications shall be sent by delivering in person or by mailing, properly addressed with postage prepaid, to the opposing party or, where the party is represented by counsel, to its counsel. Each communication with the Board shall be accompanied by a statement, signed by the originating party, saying when, how, and to whom a copy was sent.

6302.6 Computation and extension of time limits (Rule 6).

(a) *Computation.* Except as otherwise provided by law, in computing any period of time prescribed by these rules, or by any order of the Board, the day of the event from which the designated period of time begins to run is not included, but the last day of the period is included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, in which case the period runs to the end of the next business day.

(b) *Extensions.* All requests for extensions of time shall be submitted to the Board in writing and shall state good cause for the request.

6302.7 Motions (Rule 7).

(a) Motions are made by filing an original and two copies, together with any supporting papers, with the Board. Motions may also be made upon the record, in the presence of the other party, at a prehearing conference or a hearing. The Board considers any timely motion:

(1) For extensions of time (Rule 6) or to cure defaults;

(2) To require that a pleading be made more definite and certain, or for leave to amend a pleading (Rule 14);

(3) To dismiss for lack of jurisdiction (Rule 34); to dismiss for failure to prosecute (Rule 36); or to grant summary relief because a pleading does not raise a justifiable issue;

(4) For discovery, for interrogatories to a party, or for the taking of depositions (Rules 18 and 19);

(5) To reopen a hearing; or to reconsider a decision (Rule 33), or

(6) For any other appropriate order.

(b) The Board may, on its own motion, initiate any such action by notice to the parties. Unless a longer time is allowed by the Board, a party who receives a motion shall file any answering material within 20 days after the date of receipt. The Board makes an order on each motion that is appropriate and just to the parties, and upon conditions that will promote efficiency in disposing of the appeal.

(c) The Board may permit oral hearing or argument on motions, and may require the presentation of briefs.

6302.8 Appellant's election of procedures (Rule 8).

(a) In every appeal the appellant is required to elect one of the following procedures:

(1) A hearing under the Board's regular procedure (Rule 12);

(2) A hearing under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure, if applicable (Rule 9);

(3) A hearing under the Board's ACCELERATED procedure, if applicable (Rule 10), or

(4) Submission on the written record or without a hearing (Rule 11). Also see Rule 11 with respect to the Government's right to waive a hearing.

(b) The SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure is available where the amount in dispute is \$10,000 or less (Rule 9). The ACCELERATED procedure is available where the amount in dispute is \$50,000 or less (Rule 10). In deciding whether the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) or ACCELERATED procedure is applicable to an appeal, any question regarding the amount in dispute shall be determined by the Board.

(c) The appellant's election of one of the above procedures shall be made in

writing within 30 days after receipt of the appeal file unless such period is extended by the Board for good cause shown. The election may not be withdrawn except with permission of the Board and for good cause shown.

6302.9 The SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure (Rule 9).

(a) The SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure provides for simplified rules of procedure to facilitate the decision of an appeal, whenever possible, within 120 days from the date such procedure is elected.

(b) Promptly upon receipt of an appellant's election of the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure, the assigned Administrative Judge shall take the following actions, if feasible, in an informal meeting or a telephone conference with both parties:

(1) Identify and simplify the issues in dispute;

(2) Establish a simplified procedure appropriate to the particular appeal;

(3) Determine whether the appellant desires a hearing and, if so, fix a time and place for the hearing, and

(4) Establish a schedule for the expedited resolution of the appeal.

(c) The subpoena power set forth in Rule 24 is available for use under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure.

(d) The filing of pleadings, motions, discovery proceedings or prehearing procedures will be permitted only to the extent consistent with the requirement of conducting the hearing at the scheduled time and place or, if no hearing is scheduled, of closing the record at an early time so as to permit a decision of the appeal within the 120-day time limit. The Board, in its discretion, may impose shortened time periods for any actions required or permitted under these rules, necessary to enable the Board to decide the appeal within the 120-day time limit, allowing whatever time, up to 30 days, that the Board considers necessary for the preparation of the decision after closing the record and the filing of briefs, if any.

(e) Decisions in appeals considered under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure are rendered by a single Administrative Judge. Written decisions of appeals considered under

this procedure are short and contain only summary findings of fact and conclusions. If there has been a hearing on the appeal, the presiding Administrative Judge may, in his or her discretion, hear closing oral arguments of the parties and then render an oral decision on the appeal. Such decision will include summary findings of fact and conclusions. Whenever such an oral decision is rendered, the Board subsequently furnishes the parties with a written transcript of the oral decision for record and payment purposes and to commence the time period for the filing of a motion for reconsideration under Rule 33.

(f) Decisions of the Board under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure shall have no value as precedent. Except in cases of fraud, decisions rendered under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure may not be appealed by either party.

6302.10 The ACCELERATED procedure (Rule 10).

(a) The ACCELERATED procedure makes available a procedure where the appeal is resolved, whenever possible, within 180 days from the date such procedure is elected.

(b) Promptly upon receipt of appellant's election of the ACCELERATED procedure, the assigned Administrative Judge shall take the following actions, if feasible, in an informal meeting or a telephone conference with both parties:

(1) Identify and simplify the issues in dispute;

(2) Establish a simplified procedure appropriate to the particular appeal;

(3) Determine whether a hearing is desired and, if so, fix a time and place for a hearing; and

(4) Establish a schedule for the accelerated resolution of the appeal.

(c) The subpoena power set forth in Rule 24 is available for use under the ACCELERATED procedure.

(d) The filing of pleadings, motions, discovery proceedings or prehearing procedures will be permitted only to the extent consistent with the requirement of conducting the hearing at the scheduled time and place or, if no hearing is scheduled, the closing of the record at an early time so as to permit decision of the appeal with the 180-day